



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RECREATIONAL FISHING FUNDING

MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2014

Location: Senate Hearing Room, 2nd Floor, Legislative Hall, Dover
Div. of Fish & Wildlife: Phone: 302-739-9914, Fax: 302-739-6157



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bernie Pankowski, Chairman
David Russell, Vice Chair
Eric Burnley, Sr.
Bill Baker, Sr.
Floyd Morton III (*Absent*)
Sen. Robert L. Venables
Rep. John Atkins (*Absent*)
Douglas Valentine
Ronald Horton

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

John Clark
Stewart Michels
Larry Horan
David Saveikis, Director
Anthony Gonzon
Kim Stangl

PUBLIC

4 Attendees

Agenda Item 1. Opening remarks

Chairman Pankowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of minutes from November 12, 2013 Meeting

A motion passed to approve the November meeting minutes.

Agenda Item 3. Delaware Bayshore Initiative update

Mr. Anthony Gonzon, Bayshore Initiative Planner, gave an update on the Bayshore Initiative. He discussed recent acquisitions and future project plans. The Council was interested in the Bayshore Initiative online survey results, which showed that respondents ranked fishing as the most important bay-shore activity.

Agenda Item 4. Update on current and future project funds

Mr. Clark briefed the Council on the funds the DFW receives from the General Fishing License and from the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Program. The DFW will receive approximately \$4.7 M in 2014 from the two funds. The General Fishing License funds have been steady, but the Federal Aid apportionment has dropped for the third year in a row. DFW has budgeted about \$4.3 M for recurring expenses, leaving \$0.4 M available for new development projects (development projects includes building new fisheries access areas and reconstructing older fisheries access areas). However, the recurring projects usually have unspent funds, resulting in DFW having approximately \$3 M to spend on new development projects in 2014.

Agenda Item 5. Update on current and approved construction projects

Mr. Horan went over ongoing and planned construction projects. Major projects discussed included Phillips Landing, which will be reconstructed and improved starting later this year at a cost of approximately \$900,000. Sediment will be removed from the Augustine Beach boat ramp by mid-May and this will make launching and trailering boats possible at all tide stages. After much research, an effective method for removing

the sediment at the Records Pond boat ramp was chosen, but the work will not proceed until a cost-effective sediment disposal site is located. The engineering and design work for a new fishing pier at Dobbinsville in the city of New Castle will cost about \$45,000 and building the pier is expected to cost between \$1.3 and \$1.5 million. **Ms. Linda Ratchford**, New Castle City Council President, spoke for the City of New Castle and stated that they strongly supported this project. The ongoing project to repave fishing access area parking lots was also discussed. The Council voted unanimously to advise the DFW to proceed with the Dobbinsville Fishing Pier project.

Agenda Item 6. Potential construction projects and acquisitions

Mr. Horan updated the Council on the plan to put in courtesy docks at DFW-owned fishing ponds. This project was originally planned to be inexpensive as the Division planned to reuse old floating docks from tidal fishing access areas in the ponds, but any upgrade as substantial as adding courtesy docks would require the docks to be made handicapped accessible. The accessibility requirements will make the addition of courtesy docks at the ponds an expensive project. One of the ponds that was to receive a courtesy dock, Millsboro Pond, also needs a new boat ramp. The Council rejected further work on the fishing pond courtesy docks, but did endorse replacing the boat ramp at Millsboro Pond.

Mr. Clark and Director Saveikis briefed the Council about a piece of property on the Leipsic River in Leipsic that DFW would like to purchase for future development. This property could provide a protected, long-term docking option for the Division's research vessel *First State*. This property also has great potential as a future fishing access area, pending future approval from the Town of Leipsic for such use. The Council endorsed DFW pursuing the Leipsic property on the condition that the property cost a maximum of \$500,000.

Agenda Item 7. Follow up from previous meeting

Chairman Pankowski updated the Council on the cost of changing the boat fishing license decals from the current plain design to a design with a weakfish silhouette. The

printer currently producing the decals under state contract estimated that the cost to change the decal would result in an increase of 62% to 79% in the cost for production. The Council agreed this was too much to spend on an optional decal. **Chairman Pankowski** then asked DFW to look into putting a design on the decal that would be less graphically involved than his original suggestion. The **Council** agreed that if the decals could be changed to the new design at a cost increase of 15% or less that they would ask DFW to pursue the design change.

Options for providing public access to Fleetwood Pond were discussed. Given the high cost of building a road to the only property that DFW owns on the pond, the Council asked DFW to investigate building a small parking lot next to the nearest road to the pond and providing a footpath from the lot to the DFW property on the pond.

Mr. Horan told the Council that cleats had been ordered and would be installed on the courtesy docks at the Lewes Fishing Access Area.

Agenda Item 8. Public comments

A question was asked regarding any temporary closure of the Augustine Beach boat ramp during the dredging project (see Item 5). **Mr. Horan** responded that during the dredging activities, access will not be hindered Fridays through Sundays, for approximately four weeks.

Agenda Item 9. Ending remarks and adjournment

Chairman Pankowski stated the next meeting is tentatively planned for November 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Stangl
Recording Secretary

